

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 209

By Person

A RESOLUTION To honor Clark E. LaGrange on the closing act  
of his thespian contributions to Evangelical  
Christian School.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have wholeheartedly given of themselves in the service of the teaching profession, dedicating their lives and careers to the education and artistic enrichment of the children of this State; and

WHEREAS, Clark E. LaGrange is one such estimable citizen who is surely deserving of the praise and commendation of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, He has meritoriously served the students of the Evangelical Christian School in Memphis for thirteen years as a Speech and Drama Teacher; and

WHEREAS, Clark LaGrange's creativity and leadership have made a positive difference in the lives of countless young people; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished scholar, Mr. LaGrange graduated in 1980 from Palm Beach Atlantic College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts and a minor in Literature; he then attended Florida State University, where he served as a Graduate Assistant for the School of Theatre, while completing course work towards a Master's degree in Theatre Arts; and

WHEREAS, After leaving Florida State University, Clark E. LaGrange adeptly served as the Drama Coordinator for the First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Florida, where his responsibilities included producing the Easter, Christmas, and Musical Dinner Theatre Programs; a year after he began working as Drama Coordinator, he also started teaching Secondary Literature and Drama at the First Baptist Christian School; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable gentleman is the recipient of the 1980 Palm Beach County Fine Arts Scholarship, the Victor Hammer Fine Arts Award, and several Inter-Collegiate awards for Oral Interpretation; he also served as the President of Alpha Psi Omega, a dramatic honorary society; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure at Evangelical Christian School, he has distinguished himself as the very epitome of the conscientious and committed teacher; and

WHEREAS, He will be surely missed by the students, teachers, and administrators of the Evangelical Christian School and the greater Memphis community upon his departure, as he is soon moving to Florida to be closer to an elderly parent who is ill; and

WHEREAS, A talented and hard-working teacher, Mr. LaGrange has tirelessly led his students to unparalleled levels of excellence; his students have received numerous honors and distinctions, including 1989 District 3<sup>rd</sup> place for a One Act Play, 1992 District 1<sup>st</sup> Place for a One Act Play, 1993 State 1<sup>st</sup> Place for a One Act Play, 1993 State 1<sup>st</sup> place for Interpreter's Theater, 1995-1996 District 1<sup>st</sup> Place for a One Act Play, 1996-1997 District 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Interpreter's Theater, 1996-1997 District 1<sup>st</sup> place for a One Act Play, 1996 State 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for a One Act Play, 1997 State 3<sup>rd</sup> place for a One Act Play, 1998 District 1<sup>st</sup> Place for a One Act Play, and 1998 District 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Interpreter's Theater; and

WHEREAS, Recently, Clark LaGrange was awarded his greatest honor to date, at the closing of his final play at Evangelical Christian School, his students proclaimed him "Friend"; and

WHEREAS, He is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Bobbie; they are the proud parents of one son, David; and

WHEREAS, Clark E. LaGrange and his family are devout and valuable members of the Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. LeGrange has served Evangelical Christian School with the utmost dedication, compassion, and acumen; his many innovative ideas and programs, steadfast commitment to the principles of quality education, devotion to his students, and the utter delight he takes in teaching, all combine to make him a superb educator and human being; and

WHEREAS, Clark LaGrange exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to motivate his students to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the entire Evangelical Christian School family; and

WHEREAS, Whether Mr. LaGrange is teaching in the classroom or in the theatre, he is an inspiration to his students, a source of wisdom, encouragement, and understanding, and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor Clark E. LaGrange on the closing act of his thespian contributions to Evangelical Christian School, commend him on his commitment to excellence in education and theatre, salute his exemplary teaching career, and extend to him our gratitude for his thirteen years of exceptional service to the children of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer our heartfelt best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.